

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,509). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a method for transmitting state information that includes measuring distances between a shared object and client avatars and adjusting transmission rates of state renewal information according to the measured distances. Applicants submit that Cheng neither discloses nor suggests these features of the claimed invention.

Cheng discloses a system for providing attention based social interaction among objects in a virtual environment by supporting attention and priority rendering in the environment. Specifically, Cheng discloses employing a sense cone associated with an avatars sight. The sense cone or vision cone is used to support intentional interactions and spontaneous interactions so that the system can provide sensed information to the user. Although Cheng discloses that the vision cone has a vector associated with it, the vectors purpose is to determine whether the other object or avatar is in the vision cone of the user. Cheng also discloses a priority component that provides enhanced resolution or increased quality of service that is responsive to a variety of factors, including the relative positions of the objects. However, Cheng does not disclose or even suggest that increased quality, or any other feature, is achieved by adjusting the transmission rate of state renewal information, as recited in claim 1 (See, for example, columns 2, 3, and 11-14).

Accordingly, Cheng fails to teach, or even suggest, a method for transmitting state information that includes measuring distances between a shared object and client avatars and adjusting transmission rates of state renewal information according to the measured distances, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 5 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 because claim 5 recites features that are similar to the features of claim 1 discussed above.

Claims 2-4 and 6 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 5 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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